



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **Tsutomu SATO**

Group Art Unit: **2626**

Serial No.: **09/704,667**

Examiner: **Negussie WORKU**

Filed: **November 3, 2000**

Confirmation No.: **4393**

For: **OPTICAL READING APPARATUS AND IMAGE FORMING
APPARATUS**

Attorney Docket No.: 001451

Customer Number: 38834

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(4)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

October 6, 2004

Sir:

The attention of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08. One copy of each of these documents and its English language translation is attached.

No fee or certification is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, because it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits following the **Request for Continued Examination (RCE)** in the above-identified patent application.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references cited in the attached Form PTO/SB/08 is made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

Application No.: 09/704,667
Information Disclosure Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(4)
October 6, 2004

The Commission is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2866 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully Submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John P. Kong', with a stylized, flowing script.

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	1
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Complete if Known

Application Number	09/704,667
Filing Date	November 3, 2000
First Named Inventor	Tsutomu Sato
Art Unit	2626
Examiner Name	Negussie Worku
Attorney Docket Number	001451

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ *Number ⁴ *Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	1	JP 02-248973	10/04/1990	Ricoh Co. Ltd.		
	2	JP 06-313999	11/08/1994	Ricoh Co. Ltd.		

**Examiner
Signature**

Date
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.